



May | June
2024



Italia

NEWSLETTER of the ITALIAN WORKMEN'S CLUB

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President's Message

Festa is fast approaching, and we need your help in many areas. If you or your family member could work a shift or two, it would be a great help to the Festa weekend. Check out the article on Festa later on in this newsletter.



Also, we need you to sell your raffle tickets as they help fund Festa if the weather doesn't agree with us.

As you know by now, due to back pain and upcoming surgery I have temporarily turned leadership of the club over to our Vice President, Joe Tripalin and Past President, David Rizzo. I will be there, only at a slower pace.

Thanks to all who have me in your thoughts and prayers.

Grazie. *John Caliva* ■

FESTA ITALIA

“Our Annual Cultural Picnic & Music Festival” June 1 – 2

Let me begin by thanking my co-chairs, Joe Tripalin and Jim DiUlio. Their leadership and the dedicated efforts of the many committee members has resulted in a plan for Festa Italia 2024 that brings together tradition and new ideas for one of Dane County's premier ethnic festivals.

McKee Farms Park in Fitchburg will again be the site for our annual celebration of Italian food, music, culture and fun for the whole family. Whether you're looking to share a nice meal with your family, enjoy live music with friends, or simply sip a glass of wine in the sun, Festa Italia is the place to be. As a reminder, profits from this event help fund scholarships for local high school students, who are planning to attend four-year or two-year degree programs.

Food & Beverage

Food options start with a spaghetti and meatball dinner, complete with salad and bread. Other offerings range from Italian sausage, beef and meatball sandwiches to pizza, olive salad, an Italian fry tent with calamari, mozzarella sticks, arancini and sfingi, gelato, ice cream, kettle corn, soft pretzels, cannoli, and a variety of Italian cookies.

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History of Italian Toys & Games

By Tom Smith

Some of the fondest memories from our early years come from the joy of playing with toys and games. Later in life, we see that same joy in our children and grandchildren. And we find fun in the games we play as adults. For many of us (those of a certain “vintage”), when we grew up toys were just something fun to play with. Today we’ve come to understand that toys also play an important role in a child’s development. But however you think about it, one wonders about the origins of these toys and games.

For those of Italian heritage, the first toy that might come to mind is Pinocchio, the wooden marionette created by the woodcarver Geppetto who dreamed of becoming a real boy. But the history of toys begins thousands of years ago. The first toys were most likely common objects like sticks and stones, bones and string, or some combination of these things. Semi-precious stones shaped like marbles found in Egypt date back to 3000-4000 B.C.. The ancient Romans invented more games than any other civilization and the modern games of marbles originated with the Romans. The Roman game of “Nuts,” the equivalent of marbles, had its roots in the festival of Saturnalia, held near the winter solstice. Saturnalia celebrations were the source of many of the traditions later associated with Christmas, including gift-giving. During Saturnalia, the Romans exchanged gifts that included bags of “nuts” (marbles), with the games popular among Roman children.



Collection of Roman Marbles



Roman Crepundia

The first toy in a child’s life is often a rattle. The Romans had something that rattled for a baby, a toy called a *Crepundia* (derived from the verb meaning “to rattle” – *crepare*). The Crepundia was comprised of a string or leather lace strung with small toys or ornaments consisting of charms, flowers, swords, axes, and tools. The resulting necklace would hang about the baby’s neck, the shapes intended to amuse him and the jingling sounds of the charms to calm a fussing baby. There were dolls, but they had little decoration. Facial features and any anatomical differences were absent as toys had not really developed yet as an art form. Just as today’s toddlers have pull-toys, archeologists have found many kinds of similar toys made of wood or terracotta. There were animal shapes of all kinds, along with horses and chariots. Lots of dolls have been found, made from fabric and stuffing, carved from wood, or made from terracotta.





Latrunculi

The ancients had a variety of games as well. One of the most common was a game called *Rota* (from the Latin word *Rotae* for wheel), the Roman version of tic-tac-toe, played with small stones on a layout that looked like a pizza cut into eight pieces. Then there was *Latrunculi*, a Roman form of chess that used a board (made from wood, marble, or stone) with black and white “army” pieces that would do battle on the board.

Children had a game called *Battledore*, which was much like badminton of today. Flat paddles were used to hit a pinecone back and forth scoring points. There were games similar to baseball, basketball, and field hockey. Balls were made out of reeds and linen, and there was even a ball that was like a football, made from a pig’s bladder.



Roman Football



Knucklebones and Roman Dice

Dice have been around for thousands of years and there were always dice games for both children and for adult gambling. A precursor of dice was a popular game named *Knucklebones* (also called *astragalo*), usually played with five or ten small bones that were actually the ankle bones – the astragalus – of sheep. The winner was determined by which side of the knucklebones landed facing up. In

another game the Romans called *Tali* the knucklebones were marked as dice were, with dots representing numbers, and when tossed gave players a hand to beat. The actual six-sided dice of the Romans were called *tesserae* and were used to move the pieces on a game board or for gambling. However, the dice were not uniform cubes but asymmetrical...not to cheat but rather because of the way the ancient Romans viewed the role of fate and the gods in the roll of the dice. There was also a game called *Tabula* that was much like backgammon, but played with three dice.



Tabula Shaking Cup & Dice

The game we all are perhaps most familiar with is *Bocce*. The origins of bocce date back to 5000 B.C. in Egypt, where the game was played with polished rocks. Paintings on the walls of an Egyptian tomb show two boys playing the game. It spread throughout the Middle East and Asia, and became popular with the Greeks in 800 B.C.. When the Romans adopted the game it was introduced throughout the empire. In early times they used coconuts brought back from Africa. Later the balls were carved from hard olive wood. Beginning with Emperor Augustus, bocce became the sport of rulers and statesmen. Galileo noted the game’s athleticism and spirit of competition rejuvenated the body. The name Bocce is derived from the Vulgate Latin *bottia* meaning boss. In 264 B.C. bocce in its current form was played during Rome’s Punic Wars against Carthage. Teams of 2, 4, 6, or 8 men were formed, with soldiers throwing a small “leader” stone followed by larger stones then thrown at the “leader,” the

History of Italian Toys and Games, *continued*

stone coming closest scoring points. The game was thought to relax the troops, taking their mind off the stress of war. It was also believed that men playing in teams helped to hone their military strategic thinking as they played. In a strange turn of events, in 1576 the



Bocce being played in ancient Rome

Republic of Venice condemned the game, punishing those who dared play it with fines and imprisonment. The most serious condemnation came from the Catholic Church, which discouraged parishioners from playing and officially prohibited members of the clergy from playing, proclaiming bocce was a way to gamble.

The first bocce clubs were organized in Italy. The first Italian League was formed in 1947 and comprised of fifteen teams in and around the town of Rivoli. This was also the year of the first annual Bocce World Championships. At the turn of the century bocce flourished in the United States. Bocce is now the third most popular sport in the world, after soccer and golf. It was introduced in the Paralympics at the 1984 New York/Stoke Mandeville Summer Games, and is one of only two Paralympic sports with no Olympic counterpart. Despite its popularity and four new sports being introduced in the 2024 Olympics – skateboarding, sport climbing, surfing, and breakdancing – bocce has yet to make the list.

Returning to Pinocchio, one of the most famous characters in children’s literature, his story began as the protagonist in the children’s book “The Adventures of Pinocchio,” written by the Italian writer Carlo Collodi of Florence in 1883. The name Pinocchio is thought to have come from *pino* (pine wood) and *occhio* (eye). The Disney film brought the character to the masses in 1940. When in Rome you’ll spot the Pinocchio Toy Store just a few yards away from the famous Trevi Fountain. You can’t miss it with a larger-than-life-size Pinocchio seated out front. There you will find shelf upon shelf of wooden Pinocchio dolls, Pinocchio costumes, and every kind of Pinocchio souvenir you can imagine.



Toys and games, old and new...what will the future bring. When those who make and market games today look toward the future, they talk about things like sustainability, with attention to the materials used in the products they sell. They think about “holistic play,” whether a toy or game offers skill-building or promotes wellness during play. In a digital world filled with social media there is a concept called “edutainment” – combining education and entertainment. The terms and criteria may be new, yet many of the ancient toys and games did educate and entertain, each in their own way. Some still do to this day, and some are still enjoyed just for the fun of it!



IWC Birthdays

May

- Enzo Ciarletta (1)
- Eric Holmes (5)
- William Battista (7)
- Scott Theel (9)
- Anthony Gatti (10)
- Ron Giordan (16)
- James Pullara (19)
- Jay Moretti (20)
- Jim LeTourneau (21)
- Ron Gatti (23)
- John J. Colletti (27)
- George Colletti (28)

June

- John Baker (3)
- Todd Cambio (4)
- Joseph Shubat (5)
- Anthony Balistreri (6)
- Gary Berger (8)
- Frederick Underhill (11)
- Dick Murray (12)
- James Brausen (15)

Italia

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- Kathy Williams* Feb 17
- Katherine Brozyna* March 10
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Things I didn't Know:

Chapter 2-A; ("Madison's Little Italy")

by Prof. Jim LeTourneau

I am again dividing this next chapter 2 of John Anthony Valentine's unpublished 4-chapter thesis into parts, compressing the next of approximately 60 thesis pages. Information of Madison's overall history is well documented and easily available in other publications such as David Mollenhoff's "Madison: A History of the Formative Years" and Stuart Levitan's "Madison; The Illustrated Sesquicentennial History, Volume 1", among others. The book "E Paisan; The Centennial History of the (Madison) Italian Workmen's Club", by Ann Beiser Allen will also be quoted at times.

John Valentine often refers in his thesis footnotes to another UW-Madison student thesis written in 1916 by Henry Barnbrock, Jr. Where appropriate, I will also begin to use information from Barnbrock's thesis as an added source of information about Madison's Italian colony, more things I didn't know.

John Valentine wrote, "The first Italian immigrants to permanently settle in Madison came between

the years 1880 and 1900. Their number was very small, probably never exceeding half-dozen families. The greater bulk of Italians would arrive between 1905 and 1915. According to Census Records of Wisconsin Counties from 1836 to 1905, the very first Italian family to settle in Madison was in 1883, that of Joseph Antonio. Little is known of this family since none of its descendants remained in Madison by the time Valentine wrote his 1964 thesis.

Records do show, however, that Antonio was employed as a railroad section hand and that he had purchased a home sometime before 1895. He had a daughter and a son, the son later becoming a lawyer. It can be safely assumed Antonio's home was just north of the railroad tracks which ran along the low bluff above the mMarsh, somewhere in the area that would later be along Bedford or Dayton Streets. The marsh would later become the Italian community of "The Bush".

According to Valentine, census records show Michael Di Rienzo and his family were the second

to settle in Madison. Michael left his hilltop village of Ripalimosani, located about four miles north of Campobasso in *Abruzzo, Italy in the early 1880's to seek a better life in America. Unable to get steady employment, he began going door to door in New York City "peddling" his services. After a short stop in New York, he left and started hopping on freight trains, going from town to town. His travels led him to every state east of the Mississippi River, north of the Mason-Dixon Line. Madison was one of his stops and, finding plenty of work, he went back to Italy, collected his family, wife Rosa, son Angelo and daughter Maria and journeyed back to Madison in 1888. Two years later, in 1890, his two sisters and their families also came to Madison. Within a decade, he influenced two other families from his native province of Campobasso to settle in Madison. This clan formed the nucleus of a small colony in the W. Johnson St. area near the current intersection of Gilman and University Ave, with the DiRienzo Family name being later recognized through the family monument business in Madison's near west side.

According to a DiRienzo Monu-



ment Company website article written by Danielle Di Rienzo, niece of John Di Rienzo who was a son of Michael, the family stayed in Madison a few years before moving back East to Cleveland in 1894 which had a large Italian community and more work opportunities. When eldest son Angelo was of age, his mother arranged for him to apprentice at the Carabelli Monument Shop in Cleveland. Angelo and younger brother Joseph eventually moved back to Madison around 1911. It was then that the brothers leased some land at the corner of Regent St. and Highland Ave. to set up a “marble and granite works”. First called Lake View Monument Works, it was soon changed to DiRienzo Bros. Monuments when the other brothers, Vincent and John DiRienzo joined the business. The name stuck for over 70 years before it was sold in 1986. Eventually, the building at Highland and Regent Sts. was demol-

ished for a new West High School pool. However, Pechmann Memorials, which now owns the business, recognized the well known “branding” of the Di Rienzo name and kept it while establishing a new Di Rienzo monuments office on University Ave. in Madison.

**NOTE: Compobasso was a small city in the Abruzzo “Regione” until 1963 when Campobasso Province was detached from the Abruzzo Regione and later attached to the “new region” of Molise. Campobasso city is the capital of Campobasso Province as well as the capital of the Molise “Regione”. Many of the inhabitants in Campobasso came to Italy from what is now Croatia in the 1500’s and still speak the language, along with Italian. It is similar to the situation of many Albanians who came to Southern Italy and Sicily in the mid 1400’s who still speak their native Arberesh, along with Sicilian-Italian. At the end of this chapter, we’ll take a quick look at how Italy is divided into dif-*

ferent “regions”(regione) and “provinces”(provincia).

Like many early Sicilians, these Early Southern Italians maintained contact with their native Abruzzo-Molise area, often sending money to help support relatives and churches. Their attitude and behavior did not differ from that of the other Southern Italian and Sicilian immigrants who were now entering the country in larger numbers. Emigrating as a clan and demonstrating a tendency to live closely together, these Italians, too, maintained close ties with the home country. They were illiterate and unskilled, for the most part, men working as ditch-diggers for the Madison Gas Company, thereby assuming the lowest status positions in society.

Significantly, according to Valentine, these immigrants experienced little overt hostility. Because of their small number very few Madisonians took note of them.

Continued next page

By the time overt discrimination against Italians and Sicilians was displayed, these families had been in Madison for over twenty years. Their children, the second generation, attended American schools, such as Holy Redeemer Catholic Grade School or Madison High School (later Madison Central), and had been well assimilated. Many of these second-generation men married non-Italian girls and no longer lived in the Gilman/W. Johnson St. colony.

At the same time this second generation of Italians was reaching adulthood, a larger, Sicilian-Italian neighborhood was forming in Madison. Contact between the two communities was marginal as the second generation of Italians who grew up north of the tracks had come to identify more closely with the American community than their former Italian community or the newly arriving Sicilian-Italians. By the 1900's, Valentine says there was some evidence of resentment against the newer immigrants because heightened discrimination now began to include the Italians who had been in Madison for almost two decades.

According to John Valentine, in 1900, there were approximately 25 Italians in all of Dane County. Within the next five years, that population tripled with a high percentage being Italian railroad workers recruited from Chicago. After 1900, as mentioned

previously, much of the railroad business became dependent upon Italian immigration for its supply of common labor. Though these population numbers were registered in the 1836-1905 County Census, Italians weren't the first and only ones who decided to settle in Madison permanently. As early as the 1880's "ghenge" (gangs) of Italian workers came to work on the "tracca" (track), but they formed no permanent settlement in the city and were given the name "birds of passage" by the locals because they went back and forth between America and Italy after their work was finished, thanks to the development of fast steamships as opposed to much slower sailing vessels.

But even before the Italians came to Madison there was, between 1860 and 1890, large numbers of other immigrants arriving from Norway, Germany and Ireland. These immigrants were occupying a majority of the labor jobs. By 1900, these other ethnic groups had become fairly well established and were leaving the laboring jobs for more lucrative employment, thus opening the employment door for the Italian immigrants. After the turn of the century, jobs were available. Italian rail workers were always quite willing to quit the "ghenge" should an opportunity appear. According to Rudolph John Vecoli, who wrote a UW-Madison 1963 Graduate Thesis on the Chicago Italians Prior to World War 1,

"...railroad work was a temporary expedient for most immigrants; the hard, dangerous, low-paid character of track labor caused them to seek other employment as soon as they were able".

Most importantly, wrote Valentine, Madison had established a tradition of tolerance towards all newly arriving ethnic groups, including Italians who arrived before 1900. According to the 1905 Dane County census, there were 85 Italians living in half of Madison's 10 wards, mostly in Ward 5 (E. Johnson/Gorham Sts. north of E. Washington Ave); the 8th Ward (Broom, Bassett Sts, W. Doty & W. Mifflin Sts.) and Ward 9 (the old "Bush" area.) The family names appearing on the census were still found in Madison when Valentine wrote his thesis in 1964—Corona, LaBella, Ponti and Tortorice. Among the transient worker census names were Cuccia, Vitale, Rinda and Scolatta; almost all listed as unskilled laborers. By 1910, the number of Italians had risen to 426. There were a lot more jobs available, especially for stonecutters and masons to help start the 1907 rebuilding of the state capital building after the 1904 fire.

With this new economic prosperity available, word quickly got back to the old country which spurred the "great migration", beginning in 1905. This migration greatly changed the Italian settlement pattern. By 1910, all but very few of

the families were established in a 10 block area of the 9th ward and could be called an Italian colony with immigrants coming from basically two provinces; Trapani and Palermo. In Palermo Province, most came from Palermo city itself and a small town to its south, Piana dei Greci. Valentine quoted a 1910 Wisconsin State Journal article which seemed to be the first to recognize Madison had a new neighborhood, tolerating their social patterns and tendency to group together...

"They are people generally without any other asset other than the ambition to work and get ahead in the world...they are generally laboring people, with but few places of business in Madison being conducted by them. They labor in quarries about the city, as street diggers, as masons and in the factories of the city...They have learned to live frugally and to save money. Socially, they live apart from the rest of the city. There is little interaction with people of other races except in the way of business. Coming from the old country, they do not rapidly become acquainted with new world people and ideas, and they naturally enjoy the society of their own countrymen" ... "Most live on South Murray St., West Washington Ave. and Chandler St. Another small colony lives on S. Mills St. near the tracks. They located here because property could be purchased at more reasonable rates, the rent charged is within the reach

of the laboring man and because a large number of their people could be together."

This same State Journal article also mentioned a small colony of Jewish immigrants who lived adjacent to the Italians, mostly on S. Murray St near W. Washington, in the 800 block of Chandler St and on Park St. across from Madison General Hospital. For the most part, they had come from Eastern Europe and Russia and held to Orthodox Judaism. Their migrations had been a family and clan movement, but different from that of the Italians as most had first settled in other parts of the U.S. before coming to Madison. These Jews had been merchants and tradesmen in the old country and, by 1910, had already established many businesses throughout Madison. Over the decades the Jews and Italians of Madison's 9th Ward maintained a close relationship with most the children attending either Longfellow or Washington Grade Schools and later either Madison Central or West High Schools.

At this point of his Thesis, John Valentine began an explanation why the land in Madison's 9th Ward was so inexpensive and relatively uninhabited.

He wrote..." The area in which these immigrants lived was located on a plat of land known as "Greenbush". Much of the Italians' history in Madison is inextricably connected with their efforts

to settle this piece of land. Also known as "The Triangle", it was bordered by Regent and S. Park Sts. and Washington Ave. with a few smaller streets within a block or two of the main "Triangle" streets, approximately 32 acres on Madison's near South Side. When Madison became a village in 1846, Greenbush was still unplotted. Not until 1854, when county surveyor Levi Drake platted the area was Greenbush even surveyed. It is generally agreed, though uncertain, that "Greenbush" derived its name from physical characteristics of the land. It was swampy and marshy with a thick undergrowth of shrubs and weeds.

(To picture this in your mind, if you drive westbound on the current beltline past the Yahara River, you'll see a marshy area on both sides of the beltline from the river west to the South Town Shopping area/Walmart store. This is similar to what the "Bush" area would have looked like in 1890.)

The 1890 Platt of Dane County showed the "Greenbush Addition" was bordered by Erin St., Mills St., Murray/Park St and Regent St. The area which would later become the "Bush" was considered worthless as half the land was inundated by Lake Monona. Because no one was living in the marsh, it was an ideal location for the city to dump its trash. It wasn't until 1911 that this area was reclaimed from the

Things I Didn't Know

A

lake. The “Triangle” area occupied by Italians and Jews was in a valley swampland. The high ground was the hill atop the intersection of Mound and Park Streets. The railbed of the Milwaukee Road, coming north across Lake Monona to West Shore Dr. at Brittingham Park and sweeping gradually toward the west in a long, lefthand curve was a low bluff above the marsh. Mills St. began the upward slope of land. The swampland was only two to six feet higher than the lake level and the water table was only about two feet below land surface. Despite the marsh being reclaimed for dwellings, that didn't stop the city of continuing to use the area as the city dump.

Before reclamation, the marshy quality of the land made habitation quite difficult and industrialization virtually impossible. Still, the valuable potential of the land was obvious, being centrally located and only ten blocks southwest of Madison's Capital Square. This potential led to many cases of land speculation. Enter George Praegler.



George Praegler

November, 1916 article written for the Wisconsin State Journal by Florence Kailen told the tale of some ashes, a cow, a Madison man born in Germany and his wife. George Praegler was born in 1854 in Bavaria and came to the U.S around 1882 at age 28. He stayed for a couple of years in Buffalo, N.Y. before coming to Madison with his wife Magdalen where he started working as a railroad laborer at night shoveling coal ash from steam engines while his wife tended to their single cow. Saving money from his railroad job and the milk the cow produced, they purchased a small plot of land at the edge of the marsh near the rail yard, filling in the surrounding marsh to expand their property. This gave him an idea.

He became interested in real estate in the city and, with his past experience of using coal ash to fill in the marsh around his house, he saved \$ 5,000 over a few years and bought 19 acres of land adjoining the Greenbush area. Filling in the marsh land with the coal ash, he started to divide it into lots. He then started to purchase old houses around the capital square area and moved them to his lots, now known as Praegler's Addition. After fixing up the old houses, Praegler would sell them to would-be homeowners on payments of \$ 5 down and \$ 5 to \$ 10 monthly. After a time, he began to build houses with his own hands, little homes of brick or lumber which could be sold very

cheaply. Most of the buyers were Italians and Praegler was proud to say he never had a foreclosure in all the years he was in business. George Praegler eventually moved to a house at 1109 Milton St., in the Bowen Addition, where he died in 1930 at age 76.

The City of Madison had a method of “filling in” other parts of the swampland no one wanted to purchase or any open area, owned or not. Garbage, trash and junk were dumped in these empty lots in the low areas around the north side of Lake Monona Bay. Old photos of trash in open areas along Regent St. and in Gwinette Court can be found in numerous Madison history books. Despite Italians and Jews continuing to move into the Greenbush area because of low-cost housing, the city continued dumping. In 1914, the City Improvement Committee conducted essay contests in various city grade schools. The winning essays were published in the Wisconsin State Journal. The topic was how conditions of the local wards could be improved. Herman Halprin, a Jewish student at Longfellow school won the contest for the 9th Ward. His essay not only describes the George Praegler effects of dumping in Greenbush, but reveals the living conditions of the City's immigrants, most of whom were Italians. John Valentine included the whole following essay in his thesis. Halperin's essay title was: “Are people to Tolerate Such Conditions?”

Things I Didn't Know

“The three most disgraceful things in this neighborhood are the conditions of the streets, pavement and vacant lots. It is disgraceful that a city like Madison should allow its streets to be kept in such condition. In some parts of the ward, especially on Regent, Milton, Lake and part of Murray street, it is as bad as in any tenement district in Chicago or New York. The houses in these parts are small, dirty, two-roomed shanties, most of them without cellars. In some of those flats ten or twelve are crowded in. Every room is used as a bedroom and the air is foul and full of odors. It is a disgrace to its voters that any city, especially if it contains as good a capital and university at Madison, should allow such conditions to exist. Some of the houses are built on lots that are lower than the street, causing the building to become damp and rotten. The marsh is used as a dumping ground for all kinds of rubbish and ashes, coming from other parts of the city. The air is so foul that people living near cannot open their windows on account of the bad air. Are people to tolerate such conditions? Why does not the city go after these parts and clean them up. Why is it leaving it off from year to year? The condition of the streets is becoming worse every day. If the city cannot be made to clean up these districts. Why does not the Madison Board of Commerce get after them? The streets around the marsh are not surfaced and there are no sidewalks. In the

Spring, when the ground begins to thaw, it is impossible to cross them. Is this part of the city worse than any other part that the streets should be kept in such condition? Are not the people of this ward paying their fare share of taxes for improvements? The vacant lots in most parts of the vicinity are used as dumping grounds. A place should be provided for the dumping of these things outside the city limits and the vacant lots should be used as gardens. The city of Madison ought especially to clean up this part of the city and keep it in good condition”.

Undoubtedly, conditions of the Italian community had degenerated considerably between 1910 and 1914 with the immigrants contributing to many of these problems themselves. With a significant increase in their number, job opportunities became scarcer. And because of their desire to congregate closely together, housing conditions were far worse than if the immigrants had dispersed throughout the city. However, all of these problems cannot be blamed on the immigrants alone. According to John Valentine, Italians found themselves at the bottom of Madison's social and economic scale for two reasons; blatant discrimination on the part of the City and conditions which the immigrants helped to create themselves.

Two years later, in 1916, Law-

rence Veiller, Secretary of the National Housing Authority, made a study of housing conditions in Madison. He reported that the Italian community...”had all the aspects of a large city's slum... The housing situation was serious. While the houses were not congested, great congestion existed within the houses, to the point of endangering the health of the whole community. At one time, there were sixteen cases of tuberculosis in twelve buildings”.

The following month, UW-Student Henry Barnbrock, Jr. completed his 1-1/2 year study of the Madison Italian community. His findings led him to much the same conclusion as Veiller, that the abject conditions in which Italians lived were largely the responsibility of the American community. Barnbrock's observation of the garbage issue was noted in his thesis: “Housing Conditions of the Italian Community of Madison, Wisconsin.”

...The housing problem associated with the defective buildings is aggravated by the numerous dumps of rubbish and garbage. Scarcely a vacant lot exists in the community which is not covered with decaying vegetables, filthy stagnant water and all kinds of refuse...Although often credited to the Italians, these dumps are owned and developed by American people. Draymen

Continued next page

(men with flat-bottomed, horse-drawn carts) notoriously throw off their refuse from stores and dwellings elsewhere and leave the heaps exposed. During the warm months, the nauseating odors arising from them are sensed keenly for one or two blocks. The people who live on Regent, Milton and Murray Streets never breath pure, fresh invigorating air.

Barnbrock's 1916 thesis was instrumental in exposing the condition of the Italians which we will cover in following chapters along with that of John Anthony's own thesis. In chapter 2-B, we will discover the "Colonies within the Colony; Churches and Social Clubs." ■



There are 20 Regions and 107 Provinces in Italy.

(Cities in parenthesis are regional capitols. The number next to a Region is the number of Provinces within the Region.

- | | | | |
|---|----|---|----|
| 1) <i>Abruzzo</i> (L'Aquila) | 4 | 11) <i>Molise</i> (Campobasso) | 2 |
| 2) <i>Basilicata</i> (Potenza) | 2 | 12) <i>Piemonte</i> (Turino) | 8 |
| 3) <i>Calabria</i> (Catanzaro) | 5 | 13) <i>Puglia</i> <Apulia> (Bari) | 6 |
| 4) <i>Campania</i> (Napoli) | 5 | 14) <i>Sardinia</i> (Cagliari) | 5 |
| 5) <i>Emilia-Romagna</i> (Bologna) | 9 | 15) <i>Sicilia</i> (Palermo) | 9 |
| 6) <i>Friuli Venezia Giulia</i> (Trieste) | 4 | 16) <i>Trentino Alto Adige</i> (Trento) | 2 |
| 7) <i>Lazio</i> (Roma) | 5 | 17) <i>Tuscan</i> (Firenze) | 10 |
| 8) <i>Liguria</i> (Genoa) | 4 | 18) <i>Umbria</i> (Perugia) | 2 |
| 9) <i>Lombardia</i> (Milano) | 12 | 19) <i>Valle D'Aosta</i> (Aosta) | 1 |
| 10) <i>Marche</i> (Ancona) | 5 | 20) <i>Veneto</i> (Venezia) | 7 |

FESTA ITALIA

continued

We'll have our usual array of beverage choices including a nice selection of red and white wines from Southern Italy Imports, a variety of beer offerings from Wisconsin Distributing and an assortment of soft drink products plus water from Coca Cola.

Musical Entertainment

The music gets started on the main stage on Saturday afternoon with Joe Scalissi performing his renowned "Happy Hour" impersonation and tribute to Dean Martin. That's followed by the driving rock sounds of the John Masino Band. On Saturday night, get ready to dance with the essential Prince tribute band, Purple Veins. Gerri DiMaggio kicks things off on Sunday afternoon with a wonderful variety of smooth jazz classics. The main stage entertainment concludes with the irresistible, gotta get up and dance disco/funk party band, VO5.

Italian Culture, Kids Activities & Sports

A Culture Tent filled with historical pictures of the old Greenbush Neighborhood comes alive with cooking demonstrations with an Italian flare. A "Flags of Italy"

parade and presentation on Sunday honors and educates. Madison's professional soccer team, Forward Madison FC will greet guests and demonstrate basic skills on Sunday afternoon. Wayne the Wizard fascinates children of all ages with his magic act and balloon animal skills, while Karen delights young and old with her face painting artistry. A variety of children's games will challenge and entertain kids all weekend long. There's also a pasta-eating contest on Saturday afternoon and bocce tournaments.

Festa - Volunteers Needed

The Mission of the IWC is to preserve and promote the history, culture, language and traditions of Italians and Italian Americans. Our ancestors valued the importance of gathering to celebrate with neighbors and friends. Festa Italia continues that tradition.

The members of our Festa Planning Committee are volunteering their time and energy to plan Festa, but they can't execute it alone. We need everyone to participate.

We want all members to enjoy the tastes, sights, sounds and camaraderie of Festa.

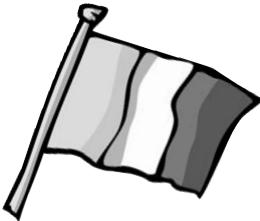
All we ask is that you volunteer a

few hours of your time to staff one or more of the many roles required to ensure a successful event. We've made it easy for you to volunteer on-line with the Signup Genius service, [SIGN UP FOR FESTA ITALIA HERE!!](#)

You don't have to be an IWC member to volunteer. Invite spouses, significant others, siblings, children, neighbors and friends to join you.

If you have any questions about how to sign up, please contact Jim DiUlio at jdiulio@hotmail.com.

David Rizzo ■



Meeting Dates

- IWC Council Meetings – 2nd Tuesday of Each Month 7:00 pm
- IWC Membership Meetings – 3rd Tuesday of Each Month 6:30 pm

Please clip and post this calendar.




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